



1634

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

Date: May 7, 2001

By William Muller

DOCKET No.: 4600-0183.26

PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Reyes, et al.

SERIAL No.: 09/851,410

FILED: May 7, 2001

FOR: DNA SEQUENCES OF ENTERICALLY
TRANSMITTED NON-A/NON-B HEPATITIS
VIRAL AGENT

EXAMINER: Unknown

ART UNIT: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-referenced continuation patent application,
please amend the application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-24, and add claims 25-41 below.

25. (New) An isolated protein encoded by an open reading frame (ORF) in a hepatitis E virus (HEV) genome, said protein prepared by
 - (a) introducing into a host cell an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence that is greater than 70% identical with the sequence presented as SEQ ID NO:6; and
 - (b) expressing said protein.